OUTLOOK FOR VAN CITY SKYLINE BLEAK, PG 4

Going Green

Blue-green ready to couple?

pg 6

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VANCOUVER • MONDAY, JANUARY 5, 2009
metronews.ca

Celebrity Buzz

Pitt hands on with nappy changes

pg 14

At least 40 die as Israel presses Gaza attack

MIDEAST Israeli forces early today pressed on with deadly ground, sea and air assaults against Hamas militants in the Gaza Strip that has cut the territory in two, while France spearheaded diplomatic efforts to obtain a truce.

A Hamas official said a delegation of the Islamist group would head for talks in Egypt, which has also launched contacts to achieve a ceasefire to end Israel's 10-day-old offensive.

Explosions from gunfire rocked Gaza overnight after Israeli soldiers moved into a northern zone and asked residents to leave their homes to avoid being hurt. In eastern Gaza City, an Israeli tank shell killed three Palestinian children in their home, said medical officers.

At least 512 Palestinians have been killed — a quarter of them civilians, a UN agency said. Of the 42 reportedly killed yesterday, most were civilians, a medical source said.

At least four Israelis have been killed by rockets and mortars fired at Israel since the offensive began. **REUTERS**

MORE COVERAGE PAGE 3

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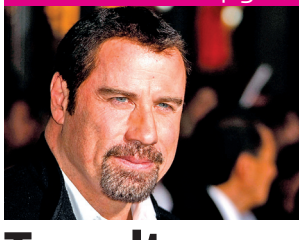
Entertainment pg 13



Travolta struggles with tragedy

Sports pg 7

Shooting Stars down Canucks

Please recycle

TODD KOROL/REUTERS

Family members embrace at a mass memorial yesterday for eight snowmobilers in Sparwood. The snowmobilers were buried alive in a series of avalanches in the mountains near Fernie on Dec. 28.

Town remembers 8 killed in avalanches

'Dads, sons, brothers' lost to mourning community

The mourners began turning up before dawn yesterday, forming a line outside the hockey arena where a public memorial was held for the eight local men who died last week in a snowmobiling accident.

Jack Schafer was among the first to arrive, a volunteer driver for one of the hastily arranged shuttle buses used to ferry townsfolk to the arena. His bus was packed, and all were quiet at first — until someone in the back cracked a joke.

"We all started laughing," said Schafer as he sat by himself in the corner of the arena bleachers, where thousands marched through, to the sounds of bagpipers. "It was what we all needed. To laugh and remember before we started crying."

The mining town of Sparwood, population 3,600, has been on a similar rollercoaster of emotion since the accident Dec. 28 claimed the lives of Daniel Bjarnason and Kurt Kabel, both 28, Warren Rothel, 33, Kane Rusnak, 30, Thomas Talarico, 32, Blayne Wilson, 26, and Leonard Stier, 45, along with his 20-year-old son Mikel.

"Everyone has all these layers of connections."
Jack Schafer

They died when a series of avalanches, rushing at speeds of up to 150 km/h, crashed down on them as they rode in the backcountry in nearby Harvey Valley.

Three other snowmobilers on the ride that day — Jeff Adams, James Drake and Jeremy Rusnak — made it out to safety after digging themselves and each other out of the hard-packed snow, sometimes with just bare hands.

Yesterday, photos of the eight victims stood on a makeshift stage, flanked by a pair of shiny new snowmobiles. Tables were set up with memorabilia from the men's lives, including photos of them on their snowmobiles and with their children.

Mourners doffed baseball caps and held roses as they entered the hall. Two-thousand candles were handed out.

All stood when the victims' families marched in — including an elderly grandfather gripping tightly to his cane and a three-month-old baby, clutching a soother.

Schafer returned to his hometown from Lethbridge, Alta., for the memorial.

"Everyone has all these layers of connections," Schafer said yesterday, glancing at the gold ring on his finger before lifting his hand to wipe away his tears and pointing out the word written on his ring.

"Dad," it read, and Schafer noted he has three sons, all around the same age of the men he was now mourning. "I see this and think about all those men who were dads, sons, brothers."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Prepare for 'traffic chaos' as rain returns

JEFF HODSON
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COMMUTING Vancouver is bracing for flooded streets and commuter chaos today as temperatures rise and rain begins to fall.

The city is worried that the rain and snowmelt won't drain if storm grates are clogged with snow and ice.

"We're preparing for the worst," Mayor Gregor Robertson said yesterday.

"There is so much snow piled up on the side streets, there's the potential for it to be really challenging — particularly with everyone going back to work and school."

Robertson said the 300 city workers will make sure storm drains are clear. Back-up staff are also available to help prevent "traffic chaos."

Environment Canada is calling for a 60 per cent chance of precipitation today, with temperatures reaching as high as 7 C. More rain is expected tomorrow and Wednesday.

Vancouver's side streets and alleys have been slick — and in some cases almost impassible — since about mid-December when heavy snows fell and stayed.

The snow hampered garbage collection and transit. It also made it difficult for many to get around, particularly seniors and people in wheelchairs.

The return to mild, if wet, winter weather couldn't have come at a better time, Robertson said, adding that he was considering soliciting a "block-by-block citizen-based response" to help clear streets.

"There are certainly people who are going to make it through now that its thawing and get their lives back to normal."

To the end of 2008, the city spent about $940,000 (almost $200,000 more than budgeted) clearing, salting and sanding main streets and hills.

The extra money was drawn from the city's contingency reserve.

Free Daily News Group Inc., operating as Metro Vancouver Newspapers 1190 Homer Street, Suite 250, Vancouver, B.C. V6B 2X6. Publisher: Maryse Lalonde

Lawsuit filed over icy roads two years ago on Highway 95
A B.C. man is suing the Ministry of Transportation and a highways maintenance company for injuries he sustained after rolling his car on an icy road. Warner Einer said the January 2007 accident could have been prevented if Highway 95 had been sanded. **CKNW.COM**

Local

Skidegate dock closed till February

Around 5,000 people living on the Queen Charlotte Islands will be without ferry service until February while B.C. Ferries rebuilds the island's Skidegate dock. Residents will have access to barge and plane services to Prince Rupert, but they won't be able to drive off the islands. CBC NEWS ONLINE

News in brief

FIRE A West Vancouver family has lost its home to a fire early yesterday. All six family members escaped unhurt.
ATTACK A woman suffered significant, but not life-threatening, injuries during a home invasion at a New West apartment early Saturday morning. Police believe the attack was targeted and are searching for a man and woman. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Grouse bans 4, bills for rescue

KRISTEN THOMPSON
kristen.thompson@metronews.ca

Four men have been banned for life from Grouse Mountain and will be billed for the costs of their rescue after allegedly ignoring ski patrollers and ducking under boundary ropes.

It's not the first time people have been asked to pay for being rescued from out-of-bounds areas, William Mbaho, a spokesperson for the mountain, said yesterday.

"(The cost is) determined on a case-by-case basis," Mbaho said. "We're factoring in things like labour, time and resources used."

It hasn't yet been determined how much the three skiers and one snowboarder — all British Columbia men in their mid-20s — will have to pay for their Jan. 2 rescue from the avalanche-prone area.

Mbaho said their names, which haven't been released, will also be circulated to all mountains in Western Canada.

"Closed areas are closed for a reason," he said, adding that as long as people respect boundary signs, they're not at risk.

Nearly a year ago, Janusz Gryko and his son Jeremy were stripped of their season passes and asked to pay $2,500 for instigating a dangerous rescue effort after snowboarding out-of-bounds at Grouse.

Danger zones

- Whistler Blackcomb will be kicking skiers off the mountain and voiding their season passes if they're caught in unmarked areas after two men died in separate avalanches last week.

Hydro makes Tsawwassen offers

PROPERTIES B.C. Hydro may purchase more than 100 properties involved in a long-standing battle over the upgrade of high-voltage transmission lines in Tsawwassen.

B.C. Hydro has sent letters to about 138 owners, offering to buy properties near the transmission lines, according to CBC News Online.

The offer's deadline is March 10 and owners have until Jan. 15 to decide whether they want an independent property value appraisal.

The transmission line is being upgraded to meet Vancouver Island's electricity needs. METRO VANCOUVER

metronews.ca
WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Video The conflict in Gaza spills onto Canadian streets at **metronews.ca/canada**
Video Thousands turn up at Sparwood memorial for avalanche victims at **metronews.ca/canada**

Bushisms U.S. President George W. Bush's greatest verbal hits at **metronews.ca/world**

Lotteries
Friday, Jan. 2
Super 7: 04, 13, 19, 30, 32, 35 & 38 Bonus 16
Extra: 10, 36, 39, 95
Saturday, Jan. 3
Lotto 6/49: 04, 13, 17, 25, 36 & 48 Bonus 28
BC 49: 03, 11, 19, 36, 39 & 47 Bonus 32
Extra: 41, 45, 60, 84
These results are not official.

Mexican shooting victim sent home

RELEASED One of two Vancouver men shot in a bar in a Mexican resort town has been released from hospital and sent home.

Francisco Rocha, the surgeon in Cabo San Lucas who treated 26-year-old Brendhan Stowe, advised him to return to hospital upon returning to Vancouver, Rocha told CBC News.

Stowe and an acquaintance, identified by Foreign Affairs as Nguyen Minh Trung Do, 25, were shot at a strip bar. Rocha said Do, shot in the neck, might never walk again.

An American tourist and security guard were also shot and injured. Mexican authorities have no suspect or motive. KRISTEN THOMPSON /METRO VANCOUVER

Massive onslaught of comets hit Earth thousands of years ago
Tiny diamonds sprinkled across North America suggest a "swarm" of comets hit the Earth around 13,000 years ago, kicking up enough disruption — the equivalent of thousands of atomic bombs — to send the planet into a cold spell and drive mammoths and other creatures into extinction, scientists reported. REUTERS

Canada/World

Sponsors will deliver: VANOC

VANCOUVER 2010 Games

It will be a year of cutbacks for Vancouver Olympic organizers, months of testing and tweaking Olympic facilities and, above all, hoping that the economy stabilizes.

The Vancouver Organizing Committee is heading into 2009 with optimism, but an awareness that much has changed in the last six months.

Tickets sales have been as good as expected and no major sponsors have pulled out, even though virtually all of the major corporations involved have had financial setbacks.

> **"We'd be naïve to assume they are immune."** John McLaughlin, VANOC CFO

"We'd be naïve to assume they are immune," said VANOC's chief financial officer John McLaughlin last month after organizers released its last financial report of 2008. "But so far, we have had good success with them."

Organizers say they've had no indication that sponsors won't deliver on their commitments.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Gaza strikes spawn rage

MIDDLE EAST Israel's offensive in the Gaza Strip has inflamed sentiment across the Arab world against governments seen as doing little or nothing to stop the onslaught.

Footage of Palestinian dead, including children, being picked from the rubble of buildings hit by Israeli fire has been broadcast across the Middle East by Arab networks. Some have supplied non-stop coverage.

Across Jordan, hundreds wept during noon prayers and cursed Arab leaders perceived by many as not only standing idly as Gazans die, but conspiring with Israel. REUTERS

MUHAMMAD HAMED / REUTERS

A Jordanian woman holds up a poster with pictures of the late senior Hamas leader Nizar Rayyan during a protest against Israel's Gaza offensive held yesterday in Amman.

Russia wants warships worldwide

NAVY Military leaders approved a plan by the nation's navy yesterday to station warships permanently in friendly ports around the world.

The Russian navy has been reasserting itself by chasing Somali pirates off the African coast and visiting South American allies.

A resurgent navy has become central to a strategy for Russia — which has enjoyed economic revival since 1998 — to project itself in foreign affairs. REUTERS

News in brief

PIRATES A French warship captured 19 Somali pirates yesterday when it rescued two cargo ships in the Gulf of Aden. The Jean de Vienne was off the Somali coast when it came to the rescue of a Croatian vessel and a Panamanian ship. REUTERS

Business

Investors hope the worst is over

MARKETS Investors begin the first week of 2009 trading hoping the worst is over. Though the S&P 500 index lost 38 per cent of its value last year, December ended on an up note with a rally, as attractively priced shares build investment appetite. REUTERS

Canada's market

- Canada's stock market endured one of its worst years on record in 2008, losing 35 per cent of its value, or about $700 billion.

In brief

REAL ESTATE Economists say the Canadian housing market, once believed to be strong, is crumbling as home prices in western provinces fall. The Bank of Canada issued a warning that many could lose their homes if the economic crisis worsens. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

HEALTH Scientists at McMaster University have found a way to tell the difference between normal stem cells and cancer stem cells, a discovery that removes one of the hurdles to the long-awaited promise of using embryonic stem cells for personalized transplants.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Comment & Views

Comment

New year's resolutions you can keep

HineSight

Anne Hines

It's the first week in January and according to the experts by the end of this week, most of us will break our new year's resolutions. Personally, I think this sounds unlikely. Most people I know broke them on Jan. 1.

The truth seems to be that breaking new year's resolutions is as big a tradition as making them. Two highly trained Harvard scientists spent three years, thousands of grant dollars and interviewed scores of people studying this problem, finally arriving at the reason that human beings find it so hard to change.

Apparently, we don't want to. You see, it pays to consult the experts.

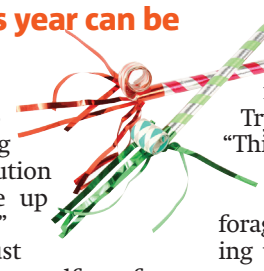
But for those who are still determined not to break their promises this year I present:

The HineSight Guide To Keeping New Year's Resolutions.

The No. 1 almost failproof method for keeping your resolutions right through to the end of the year is this. Don't make any until 11:59 p.m. on New Year's Eve. Then, increase your success potential by making resolutions like, "This year I will wear a silly paper hat and watch television programming involving balls dropping in Times Square."

Do make a plan to recycle. For instance, any resolutions you break this year can be used again next year.

No. 2 on our list: Keep resolutions open-ended. For instance, "lose 10 pounds" leaves very little wiggle room (much like my jeans). Instead, resolve to "eat most responsibly." This allows you to occasionally scarf a pint of ice cream and think, "Ah, dairy, that's health food."



Similarly, making a resolution like "take up skydiving" may be just setting yourself up for a fall.

However, "try something outside my comfort zone" could include anything from attending a family gathering to sampling discount toilet paper.

The No. 3 strategy for keeping your resolutions is to make sure they sound fun.

"This year I will live within my financial means" simply sounds like, "There's no big-screen TV in your future, honey."

Try rephrasing this to, "This year I'll play Survivor: City Dwellers edition."

Then, when you're foraging for food and sleeping under a viaduct it will seem like an adventure.

No. 4: Know what you're talking about. A friend says she intends to "reduce her environmental footprint" by wearing smaller shoes.

Do make a plan to recycle. For instance, any resolutions you break this year can be used again next year.

Lastly, tell yourself if you don't keep your resolutions, there's one person to blame. Your mother, boss, ex-boyfriend — you get to pick.

Anne Hines is an author and humour writer. She has written three novels and one collection of nonfiction humour.

MICHAEL DE ADDER

Views

City skyline nearly as bleak as markets

InTransit

Derek Moscato

dmoscato@yahoo.com

The chaos on Wall Street continues to pummel the economy in the new year and is going to be felt locally.

In metro Vancouver, a signature of the economic boom years — so-called starchitecture — is about to take a major hit. Construction financing is harder to get and uncertainty and confusion are prevalent in the real-estate business. Which means some inspired building designs are on the verge of going down before ever getting the chance to go up.

What a shame.

Historically, many folks in the Lower Mainland have grumbled about the vanilla look of condominium towers. The harshest critics maintain that Vancouver's skyline is less breathtaking than it is boring. Internationally renowned architect Arthur Erickson once referred to it as "blah."

That reputation changed, to some extent, with several sleek projects slated for the region — including one created by Erickson himself.

Dubbed "Vancouver's Turn," the Residences at Ritz-Carlton tower was designed by the locally based architect. But the downtown project is now suspended, pending "design changes."

The economic meltdown can't take all the blame.

Last year, Vancouver-based Henriquez Partners Architects put forth plans for a sleek, 120-metre tower for the North Vancouver waterfront. But instead of embracing it, a group of area NIMBYs made enough noise to quash the project.

When it comes to inspired architecture in metro Vancouver, it seems, if nervous accountants can't kill a project, neighbourhood activists most certainly will.

Derek Moscato is a writer with a focus on urban issues, transportation, architecture and economics.

It's your turn to tell others what you think. E-mail your thoughts and opinions to: vancouverletters@metronews.ca
Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number – street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

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CBC

Inkjet vs. laser printers

Inkjet printers use up to 95 per cent less energy than laser printers, according to Greeniology: How To Live Well, Be Green and Make a Difference by Tanya Ha. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Going Green

Save water easily

Don't fill up your kettle. Only pour in as much water as you need right now. If every Canadian did this, we could save enough electricity to power every street light across the country, according to Change the World for Ten Bucks: 50 Ways To Make a Difference.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

EDITOR: MIKE DEREZYCKY, MIKE.DEREZYCKY@METRONEWS.CA

Blue-green marriage in your hands

Eco-**Minded**

Blue bag, yellow bag, blue box … green bin? Vancouverites are familiar with the ubiquitous blue recycling box. However, in many Canadian municipalities, blue boxes are happily married to compost-filled green bins. But despite having a reputation as a green city, Vancouver doesn't have a curbside organics collection program. Why not?

Vancouver is running out of places to dump its waste. A curbside composting program is a great way to reduce the waste stream — as much as 30 to 40 per cent of household waste is compostable. And when people have the option of getting their organic waste collected, they are more likely to compost.

However, large-scale composting programs face a number of challenges.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Vancouver may be partnering its blue recycling boxes with green compost bins to further divert waste from landfills.

First, compost will eventually smell, so composting facilities must be located near collection locations to minimize transportation and processing time. And as with many recycling programs, contamination (with non-compostables) is an issue.

Will Vancouverites ever see a green bin gracing their doorstep? According to Mayor Gregor Robertson's new plan to make Vancouver a more sustainable city, a citywide curbside composting program is in the works. So there's hope that soon there will be green bins to keep our hard-working blue boxes company.

But composting programs are only as good as their citizen participation, so the success of these potential blue-green marriages is in your hands.

Curbside composting programs

- In 2006, Ladysmith became B.C.'s first municipality to implement curbside compost collection.
- P.E.I., Nova Scotia and the Greater Toronto Area all have curbside organics collection programs.

Kai Chan is an assistant professor and Canada Research Chair at the Institute for Resources, Environment, and Sustainability (IRES) at UBC. Amy Thai is an MSc graduate from UBC's Department of Geography.

FOOT PAIN?

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- Jeannine La Deuceur

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Make smarter choices at the grocery store

What better place to start saving the environment than at your local grocery store? Making smart choices in the grocery aisles can help reduce your family's environmental footprint.

Here are some simple ways to turn your shopping list green:

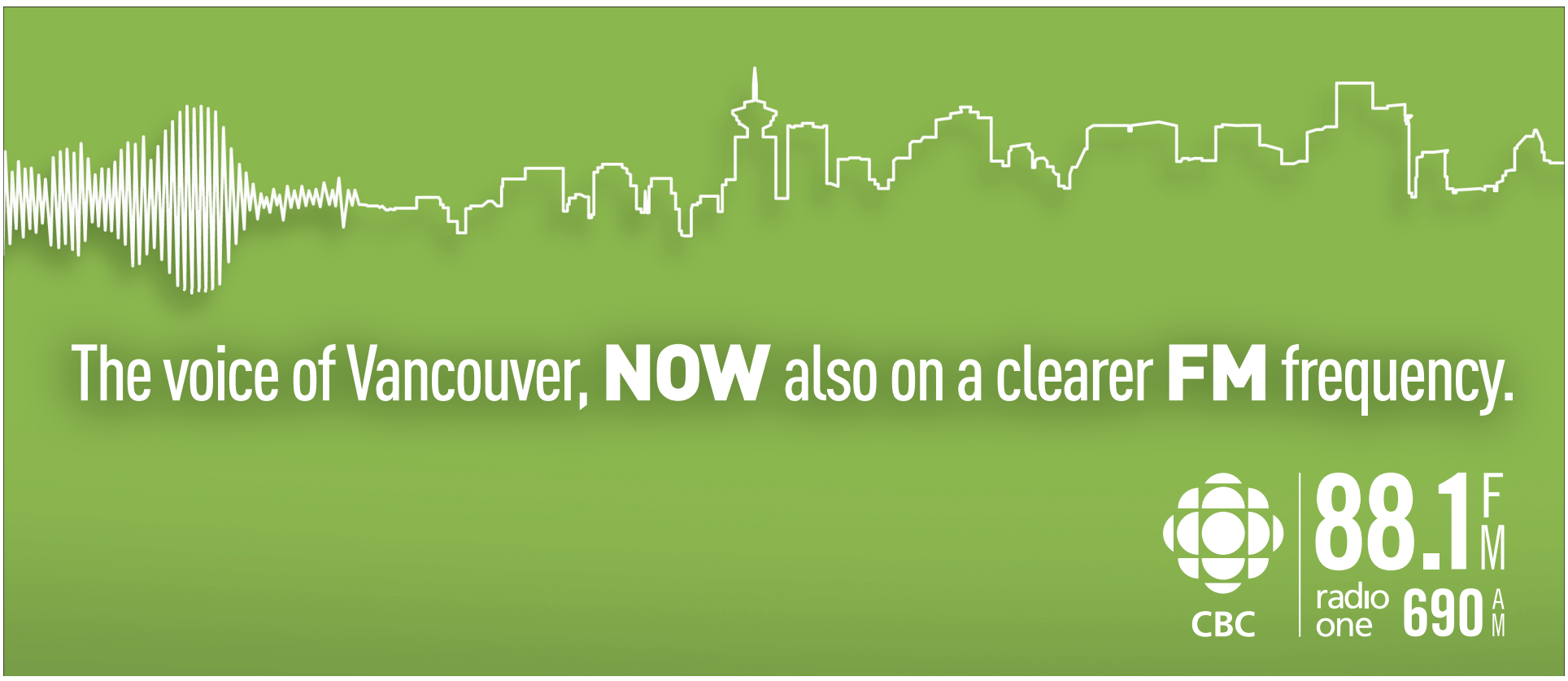
Buy local: When food doesn't have to travel far, it requires less packaging materials, fewer preservatives and often fewer pesticides. Not only are these processes bad for the environment but they also take away from the taste of the food. Another benefit to buying locally grown food is the shorter distances the produce needs to travel, which results in less damaging greenhouse gases.

Reusable bags

- Cut down on plastic bags. Canadians use approximately 10 billion plastic bags each year. Reducing that number means bringing reusable grocery bags with you to the store. If you don't already have some, most stores have their own brand of reusable bags you can purchase while you are there. Another alternative is to use cardboard boxes to carry your groceries or paper bags that can be recycled.

Buy environmentally friendly products: Many companies are trying to be more environmentally conscious so look for brands that offer natural products in recycled packages. For example, Green Works is a new line of natural cleaners that can be found at your local grocery store. Information is available online at www.greenworkscleaners.com.

Take fewer trips: Car emissions continue to be a major contributor to greenhouse gases in Canada, making carpooling and fewer trips to the grocery store a must. Making a grocery list in advance can help cut down on trips to the store for one-off forgotten items. **NEWS CANADA**



Hockey player's death renews criticism
The death of a 21-year-old hockey player who died three weeks after hitting his head on the ice during a fight has renewed calls for tougher rules governing the use of helmets. Don Sanderson, a defenceman with the senior AAA Whitby Dunlops in Ontario, died Friday in Hamilton. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports

Hosp to miss World Championships

Austrian downhill skier Nicole Hosp, left, will miss next month's alpine world ski championships after injuring her left knee. Hosp, the 2007 giant slalom world champion, tore ligaments after crashing during a warmup run for a World Cup slalom yesterday. METRO NEWS SERVICES

JOHN.CHICK@METRONEWS.CA

Stars down Canucks in shootout

SCOTT RINTOUL
for Metro Vancouver

NHL RESULT

Stars 3 Canucks 2 (SO)

THE SKINNY: James Neal scored the deciding goal as the Canucks lost in a shootout for the second straight game. Jason Labarbera made 34 saves in his home debut and nearly had the win, but Mike Modano's shot trickled through him to extend the shootout. The Canucks blew a 2-0 first period lead, but were able to force a shootout thanks to numerous sensational saves by Labarbera.

THE ROBBERY: Labarbera did his best Roberto Luongo impersonation on a Stars' power play in the third. Mike Ribiero seemingly had a wide open net in which to convert a rebound, but Labarbera's glove appeared out of nowhere to stun Ribiero.

THE NEXT GAME: The Canucks are off to Edmonton for a divisional tilt on Wednesday.

REUTERS/ANDY CLARK

Kyle Wellwood scores on Marty Turco last night.

Eagles, Ravens fly through wild card

NFL The Philadelphia Eagles and Baltimore Ravens were winners in NFL wild-card playoff games yesterday. Philadelphia beat the Minnesota Vikings 23-14 on the strength of Donovan McNabb's 300 passing yards, while the Ravens beat the Dolphins 27-9 in Miami. The Eagles face the New York Giants next weekend while Baltimore visits Tennessee. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Here we go again

ToulBox

Scott Rintoul

scott.rintoul@team1040.ca

Stop me if you've heard this before, but the Canucks find themselves in the middle of a crucial stretch of games over the next few weeks.

It looked as though Vancouver had already battled through its toughest portion of the schedule earlier this season when the Canucks played six of their first seven and 19 of their first 30 games on the road.

But the Canucks can ill afford a string of poor results if they still have designs on the third seed in the West.

Vancouver currently trails Calgary for the division lead and all four teams in the Northwest hold games in hand.

Edmonton, Colorado and Minnesota are suddenly within reach of a Canucks team that had seized control of the division.

Making the task of keeping pace more difficult are a pair of groin injuries to goaltenders Roberto Luongo and Curtis Sanford and the need to incorporate Mats Sundin into the mix over the next couple of weeks.

The good news is that only two of the Canucks' nine games this month will be played somewhere other than GM Place, and only three of those games are against teams that have accumulated more points than Vancouver in the standings.

It's not as though the Canucks are in dire need of a long winning streak, but it's vital they get more W's than L's in the near future if they want to keep Calgary in their sights and make the rest of the division an afterthought.

• Nothing seems to harness our collective national pride in sports like the world junior hockey tournament.

If you watched Canada's thrilling 6-5 shootout win over Russia on Saturday night, you know exactly what I mean.

Of course we love to thump our chests any time our dominance on ice is challenged, but it's more than that.

The fact that the squad is composed of young men who have yet to embark on their professional careers makes it somehow more appealing than getting behind the pros.

The lack of knowledge about the opposition also adds to the fervour.

As much as we'll all bleed red and white during the Olympic hockey tournament next year, it's a little harder to cheer against the likes of Alex Ovechkin and Evgeni Malkin after applauding their excellence on a nightly basis during the NHL season.

I know I'll be glued to tonight's final against Sweden when B.C. boys Evander Kane, Colton Teubert, Brett Sonne, Jamie Benn and Canucks' first-rounder Cody Hodgson go looking for gold.

Want to weigh in?

Send me an email at scott.rintoul@team1040.ca.

Scott Rintoul is a college athlete, sports fan and broadcaster. He can be heard Monday-Friday on the TEAM 1040 from 6-9 a.m.

eBay Sellers are Making $10,000+ a Month

By James Ryder

Why settle for mediocre pay and long hours when it is possible to make over $100,000 a year from the comfort of your home?

Over 170 million people are registered eBay users and 1.3 million are making a full-time living through online auctioning, leaving their everyday jobs.

Dan Lok, online auction and internet expert, is one of many people who have left the mundane aspect of a 9-to-5 desk job and begun to make his own income at home. Now Lok is making around $10,000 a month.

"People shouldn't wait until they find themselves out of a job before they find out they are not financially secure," Lok said. "They should start ensuring their own and their family's financial future immediately."

Not only does eBay allow people to make money and get rid of some things that may no longer be of use, there are more benefits than cash. If a seller can make $1,000 a month or more, they can qualify for most of the same benefits that are available in a regular 9-to-5 job, such as health, vision and dental. Over 200,000 members of eBay qualify for these benefits and more.

Mike, another successful eBay seller.

Not only does using eBay at home cut back on paying for gas and having to deal with the hassle of rush hour traffic, but also consumer demands through the Internet are continually growing, allowing for a higher income rate per seller.

One source says on average one car is sold every two minutes, a car part or accessory sold every three seconds, diamond jewelry every eighty-three seconds, and a pair of Timberland shoes every ten minutes. These items and more, from concert tickets to stamps and coins, are sold daily by average people looking to gain an income or better their current cash flow.

"Anybody can do it if they know the right technique," Lok said. "With the right techniques it's easy to make extra income."

It is rather easy to get started in the process and become acquainted with the techniques.

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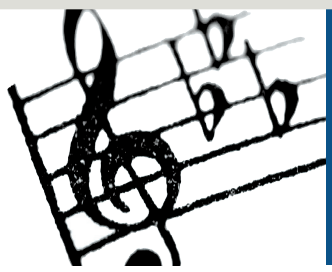
Metro Workology exclusive: Curtain Call

Don't miss Curtain Call, Metro's exclusive feature series in the Workology section. In the realm of death there are some interesting, lucrative and mysterious career opportunities; we will be digging up the stories for you, so check for Workology on Mondays and Wednesdays and Metronews.ca/work as well.

Workology



Laurentian opening

Laurentian University officially opened its new School of Education, which also houses the music department, the School of Rural and Northern Health, and masters program in human kinetics.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS DUNLOP, DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

CSI effect breaks reality's speed limit

Curtain Call

Curtain Call is a Metro exclusive series in the Workology section that focuses on the interesting and often overlooked career opportunities that involve death. Check back daily to see more.

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

CSI aficionados beware: Real studies and careers in forensics are nothing like the TV show.

Contrary to the break-neck pace of results gathering and analysis of crime scenes portrayed in shows like CSI: Miami and CSI: NY, real forensic science takes a great deal of patience and labour-intensive work.

Dr. Martin Evison, director of the University of Toronto's forensic fcience program, says the "CSI effect" — the instantaneous, logic-defying results portrayed on shows like CSI — can give many people the wrong idea of what forensics is really like.

"The first thing we tell students is that (forensic science) is not like CSI at all. A lot of it is very mechanistic, routine and laborious. However there is a reward at the end of the day — if you do it thoroughly and professionally, a forensic scientist can contribute to solving some quite serious crimes," Evison said.

The biggest exaggerations Evison says shows like CSI make are the speed at which analysis happens, the types of methods available and the exactness of the end results.

Dr. Martin Evison says forensics can be a highly rewarding field when matched to the right type of person.

"It never happens at the touch of a button and a lot of what you see (on television) is science fantasy. The results can be rather more ambiguous than you can get from CSI," he said.

The "CSI effect" is so pronounced, Evison says, that it influenced the University of Toronto's own admission policies. Students cannot enter the forensic science program directly from high school — they have to apply formally to the program after at least one year of post-secondary studies. Evison says the process is necessary to make sure that only people with an interest in real forensics rather than flashy TV theatrics get in.

"We try to guarantee that we admit those kinds of students who are academically good and have the right level of interest and maturity," Evison said.

Evison says the "CSI effect" has also had a direct influence on the way evidence in presented in the courtroom.

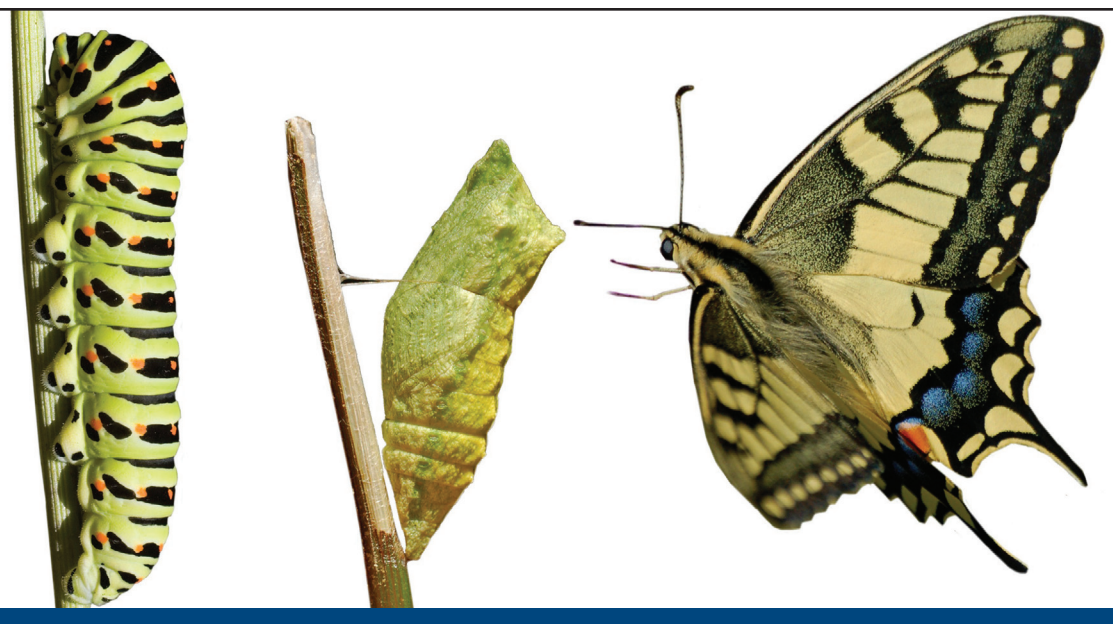
"If there is a phenomenon that typifies the way policing is changing it's a move away from eyewitness evidence and confessions and more towards physical evidence, which science is expected to provide," Evison said.

While U of T is the only major medical university in Canada to offer a forensic science program, several undergraduate universities offer similar programs, including the University of Windsor and Trent University in Ontario and St. Mary's University in Nova Scotia.

Evison says forensics can be a highly rewarding field when matched to the right type of person.

"Forensic science suits problem-solving and patient personalities, people who are willing to do the meticulous work until they find something that hopefully contributes to solving a crime. You're not going to be paid the same salary as the actors on CSI, but you will do socially useful work," Evison said.

For more of the Curtain Call exclusive series check the Workology section Mondays and Wednesdays or stop by Metronews.ca/work



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Royal Roads unveils green plan

Victoria-based Royal Roads University released details of its sustainability plan. Among the initiatives outlined in the plan are halving greenhouse gas emissions from 2007 levels over the next 12 years and adopting alternative energy sources. METRO NEWS SERVICES

New year's job outlook on the grim side: Study

CareerBuilder.com released the results of its latest survey, conducted by Harris Interactive, tracking projected hiring trends for 2009.

The survey was conducted in November and December among 3,259 hiring managers and human resource professionals in private-sector companies.

"The job market of 2008 suffered as the U.S. economy weakened and entered into a recession," said Matt Ferguson, CEO of CareerBuilder.com. "Looking ahead, recruitment levels are expected to be lower in the new year, but employers are not out of the mix completely; instead they're taking 'a wait and see' approach to hiring. Fourteen per cent of employers, surveyed by CareerBuilder.com, state they plan to increase full-time, permanent employees and 16 per cent plan to decrease in 2009. The remainder of employers say they are unsure or don't plan to make any changes to their headcount in the new year."

FULL-TIME

Fourteen per cent of employers plan to increase their number of full-time, permanent employees in 2009, compared to 32 per cent who anticipated increasing headcount in 2008. Sixteen per cent plan to decrease staff levels in 2009 while 56 percent expect no change. Thirteen per cent are unsure.

PART-TIME

Eight per cent of employers plan to increase their number of part-time employees in 2009, down from 21 per cent who expected to do so in 2008. Fourteen per cent plan to decrease headcount in 2009, 62 per cent expect no change and 15 per cent are unsure.

HIRING BY INDUSTRY

Comparing select industries, job creation in professional and business services and information technology is expected to carry into the new year. Twenty-eight per cent of IT and 23 per cent of professional and business services employers plan to add full-time, permanent employees in 2009, followed by 20 per cent of employers in transportation and utilities, 16 per cent in sales, 14 per cent in health care and 13 per cent in financial services. Retail employers are also planning to expand staffs at seven per cent followed by five per cent of hospitality employers.

COMPENSATION

With a large number of annual salary increases taking place in the first quarter, 56 per cent of employers expect to raise compensation levels in the next three months. Forty-three per cent estimate the average raise to amount to thre per cent or more while 12 per cent anticipate an average raise of five per cent or more. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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University of Saskatchewan asks for some dough
The University of Saskatchewan is requesting an 8.3 per cent increase in its operating grant for 2009-10 from the provincial government. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Confessions of a Yarn Harlot

OddJobs

Diane Peters

At age four, Stephanie Pearl-McPhee learned how to read. So her grandmother said: "If you can do something as hard as read, you can do something as simple as knit."

So the older woman taught the toddler and Pearl-McPhee, who's now 40, was hooked. "I loved it instantly and completely and I've been knitting ever since."

But the Torontonian never thought she could make a living off her passion. Her grandmother worked as a professional knitter, but it didn't pay well and the practice had fallen out of fashion by the time Pearl-McPhee grew up.

She studied illustration at Ryerson and then worked as a freelance writer. Then she had kids and become a lactation consultant and a doula. She was working in Toronto hospitals with new moms when SARS hit in 2003. Hospitals began limiting access and suddenly she could not see potential clients.

She went to bed one night saying to herself: "Think, think. What are you good at? What can you do?" Her answer: Knitting and writing.

She got up the next morning and wrote to a literary agent. She started writing proposals and in just a few months had two book deals. Both At Knit's End: Meditations for Women Who Knit Too Much and Yarn Harlot: The Secret Life of a Knitter came out in 2005, and she's now published six books. Pearl-McPhee also writes a blog (which won Best Blog from the Canadian Blog Awards in 2008) called Yarn Harlot and does frequent speaking engagements.

"Think, think. What are you good at? What can you do?"
Stephanie Pearl-McPhee before she decided to devote her life to writing and knitting

First thing almost every morning, Pearl-McPhee deals with her considerable e-mail inbox and blogs. She then knits for a few hours ("So I have something to blog about. I sit around knitting, waiting for something funny to happen to me.") In the afternoons, she writes. She spins on Tuesdays (she has a few wheels) and buys wool when she's out at her Wednesday night knitting group and a local yarn shop.

In every gap in her day — when she's thinking while writing, while her three teens are doing homework, when she's on the phone — she knits. She even knits while reading e-mail and uses the needle to tap at her keyboard.

Her house is nearly overrun by yarn and ongoing projects.

"Five years ago, that made me messy, now it makes me really focused on my career," she says. She knits so much, she says it's become part of her personality. One of her daughters knits too. The rest of the clan? "I have a very warm family," she says.

"You can pick them out of a crowd, they're the wooly ones."

Diane Peters once hawked magic pens at the Canadian National Exhibition. She's now a writer and part-time journalism instructor.

The Lowdown

Job title: Professional knitter/writer about knitting
Salary: What a newspaper writer makes
Education/training: Years of knitting
Best part of the job: "What I used to call play I now call work."
Worst part of the job: "I travel a lot and I wish there was such a thing as teleportation."

Stephanie Pearl-McPhee has six books on knitting published. Go to metronews.ca/work for a link to her blog Yarn Harlot.

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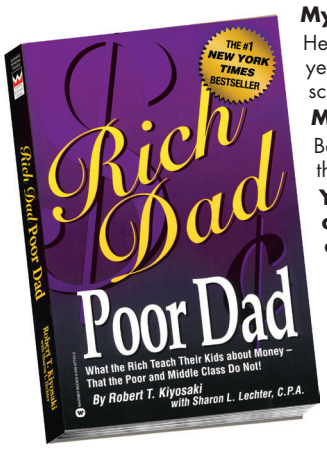

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B.C. urged to protect PSE funding during economic downturn

The B.C. government must protect, and even expand, higher education in order to cope in times of economic uncertainty, observes BC Colleges president Jim Reed in a recent guest column in Victoria News. METRO NEWS SERVICES

College & University 2009

Financial advisers key in a recession

Post Secondary

JON TATTRIE
for Metro Canada

The economic downturn is the perfect time to employ the services of a financial adviser, according to Allan Small. The Toronto-based financial adviser and Metronews.ca columnist said services like his don't cost a lot and can earn you a lot of money.

"I believe everyone needs a financial adviser today because of the market volatility," he said. "It is difficult enough for us in the industry to try and figure out what's happening and where things are going, let alone somebody who goes to their nine-to-five job and at night goes on the Internet and tries to figure it out themselves."

An adviser will look at your financial situation, compare it to where you want to be (say, retired in 15 years) and show you how to get there. Small said if you can invest for three or more years, the stock market is still the way to go.

"If you can't have empathy with a client's financial challenges ... you're not going to make a very good financial adviser."
Greg Pollock

The TSX has dropped 50 per cent from its peak: Consider that a half-price sale. "If you walk into a Hugo Boss store and see a good-quality sweater on sale for 50 per cent off … you're going to buy it," Small said. "So if you see shares in (your bank) for half off, snap them up."

With all the layoffs lately, it's perhaps time to switch careers and become a financial adviser. Greg Pollock, president of Advocis, the Financial Advisors Association of Canada, said working as a financial adviser is 10 per cent technical skills and 90 per cent relationship skills.

"It's a people business. If you can't have empathy with a client's financial challenges … you're not going to make a very good financial adviser."

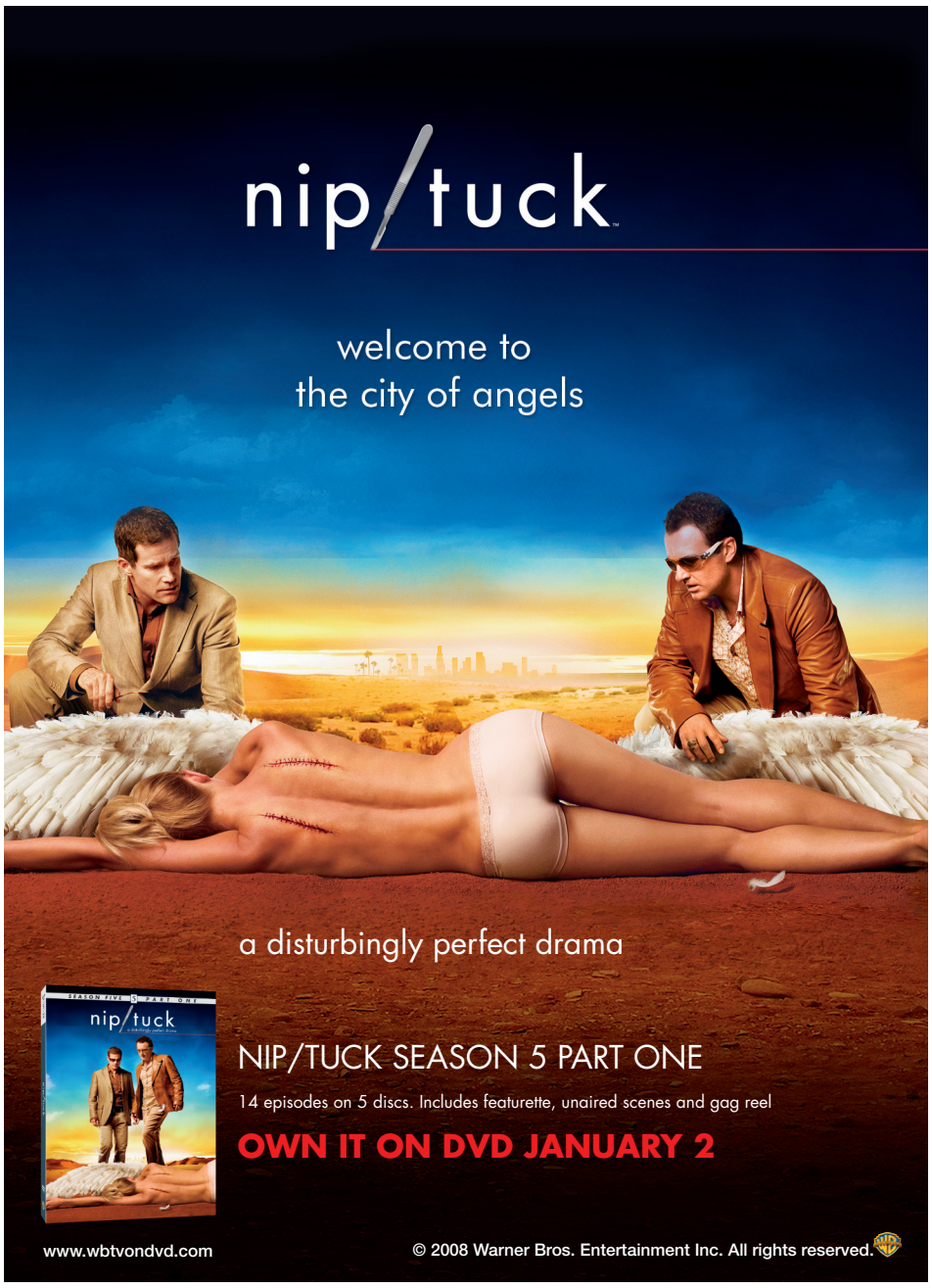
An adviser will look at your financial situation, compare it to where you want to be and show you how to get there.

Buying a home, getting life insurance, educating children and helping aging parents are as much about human relationships as they are about financial transactions.

Some advisers specialize in mutual funds and will need extra qualifications from an institute like the Mutual Fund Dealers Association of Canada, which operates nationwide except in Quebec, P.E.I. and Newfoundland and Labrador. If the adviser wants to sell stocks and bonds, she'll look at IIROC (the Investment Industry Regulatory Organization of Canada). Insurance experts will need to be licensed through the province in which they work.

Community Colleges often offer the courses one needs to become a financial advisor.

"It's about putting the client's interest ahead of all other interests," Pollock said.



Universal Pictures hits box office record
Universal Pictures hit a record global box office tally of $2.834 billion US in 2008, thanks to films like The Incredible Hulk, Mamma Mia! and Wanted. REUTERS

Entertainment

Heather's plea

Actress Heather Locklear pleaded no contest Friday to a reduced charge of reckless driving in a plea deal stemming from her arrest on charges of driving under the influence of prescription drugs. REUTERS

EDITOR: DEAN LISK, DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Smith shows movie theatres the money

MOVIES Actor Will Smith, star of Hancock and Seven Pounds, was voted the top money-making movie star of 2008, dethroning Johnny Depp in an annual poll released of movie theater owners and film buyers.

Smith

Smith, 40, is only the second African-American actor to win the Quigley poll in its 76-year history. Sidney Poitier placed first in 1968.

Three newcomers on the 2008 list — Iron Man's Robert Downey Jr., Batman star Christian Bale, and Shia LaBeouf, the 22 year-old actor in Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull — came in second, third and fourth.

Anne Hathaway, who made her name in The Princess Diaries and is now a Screen Actors Guild and Golden Globe nominee for her role in Rachel Getting Married, was named a star of tomorrow, along with Chris Pine, who appeared in Bottle Shock and will play Captain Kirk in 2009's Star Trek movie. REUTERS

Travolta 'heartbroken'

Actor John Travolta broke a two-day silence over the death of his 16-year-old son Jett Sunday, saying he and his wife, actress Kelly Preston, were "heartbroken" by their sudden loss.

Jett, who had a history of seizures, was found unconscious in a bathroom at his family's home at the Old Bahama Bay resort on Grand Bahama Island Friday morning.

He was pronounced dead after being taken by ambulance to Rand Memorial Hospital in Freeport and an autopsy to determine the cause of death is due to be performed in the Bahamas today.

"Jett was the most wonderful son that two parents could ever ask for and lit up the lives of everyone he encountered," Travolta said in a statement posted on his website (travolta.com).

John Travolta has broken his silence over the death of his son Jett.

"We are heartbroken that our time with him was so brief. We will cherish the time that we had with him for the rest of our lives."

The statement did not refer to Jett's medical history or possible cause of death. But it offered thanks from the Hollywood star, his wife and their 8-year-old-daughter, Ella, for "many messages of condolence from around the world."

"Jett was the most wonderful son that two parents could ever ask for."
Travolta statement

Travolta has said previously that Jett became very sick when he was a toddler and was diagnosed with Kawasaki disease, which leads to inflammation of the blood vessels in young children.

Travolta's publicists have declined to comment on autopsy or funeral plans and could not be reached for comment yesterday.

For the latest on this story, visit metronews.ca/entertainment

Box office

1. **Marley & Me:** $24.1 million US
2. **Bedtime Stories:** $20.3 million
3. **The Curious Case of Benjamin Button:** $18.4 million
4. **Valkyrie:** $14 million
5. **Yes Man:** $13.9 million
6. **Seven Pounds:** $10 million
7. **The Tale of Despereaux:** $7 million
8. **Doubt:** $5 million
9. **The Day the Earth Stood Still:** $4.9 million
10. **Slumdog Millionaire:** $4.8 million REUTERS

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	255	358	6 JOY	E! News	The Insider	Name Is Earl	How I Met	Engagement	Worst Week	Momma's Boys (N) (CC)		News (N)
	254	-	8 M	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Omni News: Mandarin Edition		News: Cantonese Edition		Omni News: Punjabi Edition		Metropia
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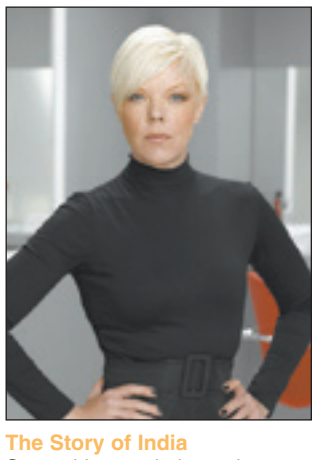
	252	336	11 GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	Mr. & Mrs. Smith ★★ (2005, Action) Brad Pitt, Angelina Jolie, Vince Vaughn. (CC)						News (N)
	256	389	12 VI	Instant Star	TMZ (N) (CC)	Gossip Girl (N) (CC)		Paris Hilton's My New BFF		Stargate Atlantis "The Siege"		News (CC)
	253	359	13 CITY	Law & Order: SVU		The Bachelor (Season Premiere) (N) (CC)				True Beauty (CC)		EP Daily
	-	-	14 CW	Deal-No Deal	Deal-No Deal	Gossip Girl (N) (CC)		One Tree Hill (N) (CC)		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
	289	381	15 CBS	Entertainment	The Insider	Big Bang Th	How I Met	Two/Half Men	Worst Week	CSI: Miami "Tunnel Vision"		News (N)
	287	379	16 NBC	Evening Mag.	Inside Edition	Superstars of Dance (N) (CC)				Momma's Boys (N) (CC)		News (N)
	602	568	19 W	Will & Grace	Friends (CC)	How Clean	Kim	Love It or List It (N)		House	Smart Cookies	Maxed Out
	288	380	21 ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	The Bachelor (Season Premiere) (N) (CC)				True Beauty (CC)		KOMO 4 News
	-	-	23 KVOS	M*A*S*H	Seinfeld	Out of Sight ★★★ (1998, Crime Drama) George Clooney, Jennifer Lopez.					Still Standing	Scrubs (CC)
	291	383	27 PBS	Steves Europe	Antiques	Antiques Roadshow (CC)		The Story of India (N) (CC)		The Story of India (N) (CC)		Disease-Facts
	290	382	28 FOX	College Football Tostitos Fiesta Bowl -- Ohio State vs. Texas.				Postgame	Family Guy	News (N) (CC)		Family Guy
	-	364	43 PBS	The Story of India (N) (CC)		Keeping Up	Being Served	Tavis Smiley	Charlie Rose (N) (CC)		Antiques Roadshow (CC)	
	296	654	64 SBK	Frasier (CC)	Frasier (CC)	Punk'd (CC)	South Park	Cheers (CC)	Half & Half	The Insider	Entertainment	Paid Program
	298	653	65 TLA	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Gossip Girl (N) (CC)		One Tree Hill (N) (CC)		KTLA Prime News (CC)		Friends (CC)
	295	651	66 WGN	WGN News at Nine (N) (CC)		Family Guy	Two/Half Men	According-Jim	Sex and-City	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	My Wife-Kids
	297	652	67 WPX	PIX News at Ten Tong. (N)		Two/Half Men	Friends (CC)	Sex and-City	According-Jim	Bring Wall St	Frasier (CC)	Odd Couple
	199	311	76 STR	News (N)	News		Late Show-Letterman		Will & Grace	Will & Grace	Late Late Show	
news	502	390	26 NW	Addicted to Plastic (N) (CC)		CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National		Addicted to Plastic (CC)		National
	500	500	33 CNN	Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)				Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)		Cooper 360
sports	407	419	22 RSP	World Combat League (CC)		Hockey	World Sport	Best Damn Sports Show		Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Sportsnet
	400	400	30 TSN	SportsCentre (Live) (CC)			Off the Record	Heads-Up Poker Champ.		Rodeo: PRCA National Finals		SportsCentre
	411	457	49 OLN	Bounty Hunter	Dakar Rally	Survivorman (CC)		Mantracker Al and Garfield.		Bounty Hunter	Dakar Rally	Survivorman
	410	403	54 SCR	WWE Monday Night Raw		(:15) Score Tonight		WWE Monday Night Raw (CC)				Cabby Unlimit
	417	406	55 SC	Barrett-Jackson		Car Crazy	Pass Time	SuperCars	SuperCars	Car	Car	Auctions
	416	409	144 GLF	Fútbol Alemán: Equipos SA		Gol TV News		Ole: La Liga		Paid Program	Art of Football	Gol TV News
family	552	543	25 YTV	Scorpion	Prank Patrol	Malcolm-Mid.	Futurama	Prank Patrol	Prank Patrol	Falcon Beach "Starting Over"		Mystery Hnt.
	555	545	50 TEL	Totally Spies	Total Drama	6teen	6teen (CC)	Misadventures	Futurama	American Dad	Chicken	Life's a Zoo
	557	541	51 FAM	Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
	553	546	56 TRE	Big Comfy	Rolie Polie	Max & Ruby	Babar (CC)	Backyard	Dora-Explorer	Go, Diego, Go!	Franklin	Big Comfy
cable variety	268	354	5 KNO	Undersea	Landscape	History of Britain		Alex Colville		It's a Girl's World A clique of 10-year-old girls.		
	575	583	20 CMT	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Hottest Women of Country		Home Imp.	Home Imp.	Reba (CC)	Reba (CC)	Hope & Faith
	570	580	24 MM	MuchNews	NewMusic	MuchVibe (CC)		So You Think You Can Dance (CC)				Dance
	600	564	29 H&G	Price	Petal Pushers	Holmes on Homes (CC)		Property	Income Prop.	House	For Rent	Price
	615	520	31 A&E	Intervention (CC)		Intervention (CC)		Intervention "Ryan" (CC)		Intervention "John C." (CC)		Intervention
	628	584	32 SPKE	(6:00) In the Line of Fire ★★★ (1993) Clint Eastwood.				CSI: NY (CC)		Unsolved Mysteries		Mysteries
	521	560	34 TLC	Jon & Kate Plus 8 (CC)		Little People	Little People	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate Plus 8 (CC)		Kids by Dozen
	616	522	39 SHO	The Outer Limits (CC)		Kink in Hair	Kink in Hair	Kenny-Spenny	Rent-A-Goalie	Name Is Earl	Testees (CC)	House (CC)
	620	523	40 BVO	Dance Atlantic	Dance Me	Law & Order "Phobia" (CC)		Without a Trace "Light Years"		Songcatcher ★★ (2001) Janet McTeer. (CC)		
	601	562	41 SLC	Tim Gunn's Guide to Style		ET Canada	Matchmaker	Tim Gunn's Guide to Style		Trading Spouses		Biggest Loser
	520	505	42 DIS	Verminators "Horror Attic" (N)		Daily Planet (CC)		Dirty Jobs "Tar Rigger" (CC)		Verminators "Horror Attic"		MythBusters
	522	506	44 HIS	NCIS "Jeopardy" (CC)		Battle 360 (CC)		Pearl Harbor: Who Fired First		NCIS "Jeopardy" (CC)		Crime Stories
	627	528	45 SPC	Ghost Hunters (CC)		Stargate SG-1 "Tok'ra" (CC)		Star Trek: Next Gener.		Star Trek: Deep Space Nine		Star Trek: Ent.
	294	650	47 TBS	Name Is Earl	Name Is Earl	Seinfeld	Sex and-City	Sex and-City	The Perfect Man ★★ (2005) Hilary Duff, Chris Noth. (CC)			
	619	525	48 TROP	TV Made	News Show	Tube Tales	What	Make	TV Made	Planet Soap	Reality	Deal-No Deal
	603	561	52 FN	Hell's Kitchen (CC)		Chef School	Chef School	Food Network Awards Cake		Food	Road Tasted	Hell's Kitchen
	626	547	57 COM	Air Farce	Just for Laughs (CC)		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Great Canadian Laugh-Off		Daily Show
	320	621	60 CEN	Atlantis	(:45) The Messengers ★ (2007, Horror) (CC)			(:15) Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix ★★★ (2007, Fantasy) (CC)				
	581	566	101 MTV	The City	After	MTV Live	MTV News	Bromance (CC)		The City	After	MTV Live
	261	394	102 V	The Nature of Things		Poltergeist: The Legacy		Laura ★★★ (1944) Gene Tierney, Dana Andrews. (CC)				Paid Program
	-	-	109 MUL	Matchmaker	Mom's-Upset	It Will Be Difficult to Love		Marimar		Pinoy: That's Entertainment		Patrol World

critics'corner

Tabatha's Salon Takeover
"Kitchen Nightmares" for salons — need we say more? In this new reality series, "Shear Genius" also-ran Tabatha Coffey gives hairstylists the same treatment that Gordon Ramsay gives restaurateurs: a no-holds-barred evaluation of why their salons are in trouble and what they need to do to turn them around. Tears? Oh, yeah. But wait until they start putting Tabatha's ideas into practice. 6 PM on SLC



The Story of India
Second in population only to China but with far more diversity among its 1 billion people, India is a land of contrasts and changes, ancient traditions and modern technology. In this new miniseries, historian Michael Wood introduces viewers to India's sights, sounds, people, places and history. It won't teach you everything there is to know about India — that would take a lifetime — but you'll learn a lot. 9 PM on PBS

La Toya to appear in U.K.'s Big Brother
Michael Jackson's sister La Toya and Gangsta Paradise rapper Coolio are among the stars taking part in the U.K. TV series Celebrity Big Brother. **ANANOVA.COM**

Celebrity Buzz

Lohan, Ronson house hunting?

COUPLE Lindsay Lohan and her DJ partner Samantha Ronson have been house hunting in the glitzy United Arab Emirates paradise of Dubai in a bid to beat the cameras, female-first.co.uk is reporting.

The pair reportedly fell in love with glamorous Palm Island resort after Ronson performed at the nearby luxurious Atlantis Hotel last year, according to the Daily Mirror.

And the Mean Girls star is keen to capitalize on a lack of paparazzi in the Middle-Eastern state by snapping up a lavish multi-million dollar pad.

A source tells the publication, "Lindsay and Sam loved the tacky glitziness of Dubai. There is so much money and opulence out there it really impressed Lindsay — she can be quite materialistic like that. Despite her fair skin, Lindsay loves the beach and sunshine.

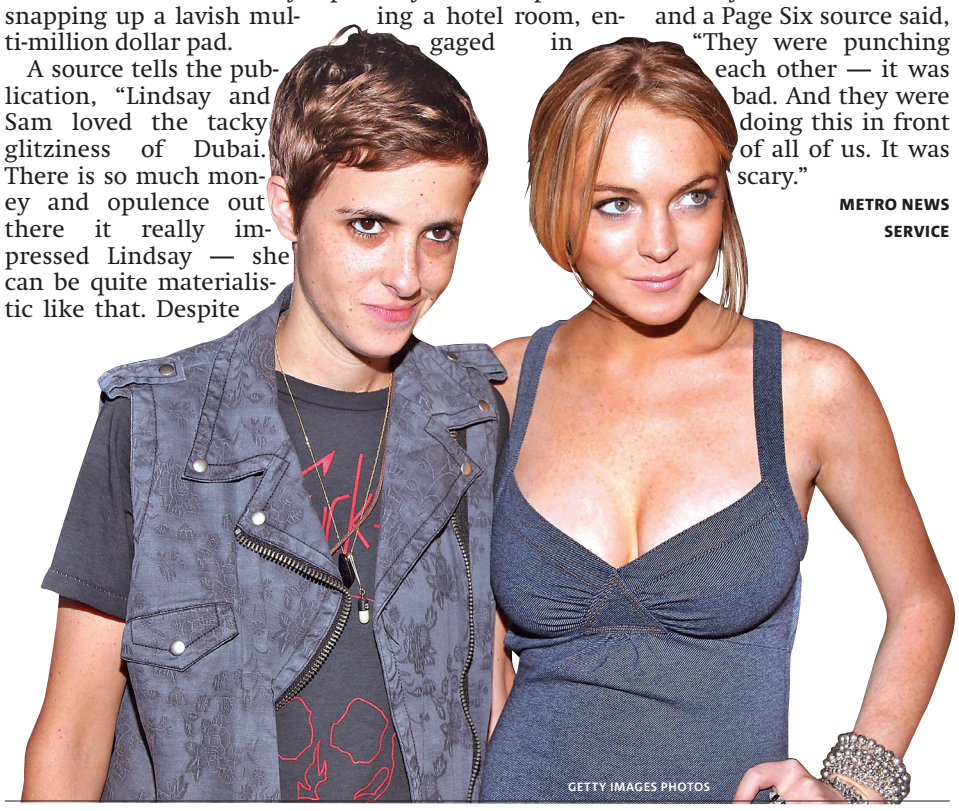
"And with the property market over there probably the only place where there still seems to be a boom, she thinks it will be a wise investment," the source added. "There isn't as much paparazzi either — although that's sure to change once Lindsay and Sam become regulars on the scene."

Meanwhile, eonline.com is reporting it wasn't such a happy new year for Lohan and Ronson, who reportedly ended up trashing a hotel room, engaged in fisticuffs and shouting at each other in a dirty alley.

The website quotes a report by the New York Post's Page Six column that says the duo's new year got started with an argument while Lohan and Ronson were partying with family at Set in Miami.

The gossip column says further discussions erupted later at their hotel room where several sources heard crashing and screaming. The fight reportedly spilled into the hallway at about 11 a.m., and a Page Six source said, "They were punching each other — it was bad. And they were doing this in front of all of us. It was scary."

METRO NEWS SERVICE



GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Harris wants to see Jackman on show

CAREER Samantha Harris has an idea of who she wants to see on Dancing with the Stars: People magazine's Sexiest Man Alive.

"Hugh Jackman, hands down," the co-host of the show said, according to people.com

The website says Harris would expect the Wolverine actor, who has also starred on Broadway, to do well if he appearing on Dancing.

"He's a song and dance man. He's a Broadway guy," she told People in Las Vegas before celebrating her birthday at Blush Nightclub. "He's got charisma and you know he can move."

Harris said she's even suggested to Jackman that he do the show. How did the upcoming Oscars host respond? "He actually twirled and dipped me. I was so excited," she said. "That made my year."

Dancing's eighth season begins in March, with a cast announcement coming within the next several weeks.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

No on-set tension, says Eva

RUMOUR Actress Eva Longoria Parker has laughed off persistent rumours of tensions on the Desperate Housewives set, insisting cast members are all "dear friends" to her, female-first.co.uk reports.

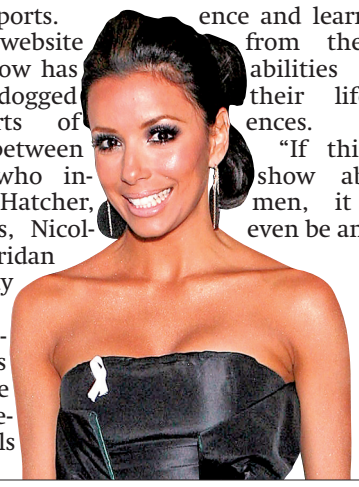
The gossip website notes the show has long been dogged with reports of fighting between the stars, who include Teri Hatcher, Marcia Cross, Nicollette Sheridan and Felicity Huffman.

But Longoria Parker has dismissed the rumours, because she feels "gifted" to be onset with the other actresses.

She tells Glamour magazine, "The women on the show are dear friends of mine. It's been such a gift for me to be in their presence and learn not only from their acting abilities but from their life experiences.

"If this were a show about four men, it wouldn't even be an issue."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Kate credits body to Pilates workout

HEALTH Kate Winslet is one hot mama, but she doesn't get that fabulous bod by hitting the gym, starmagazine.com reports.

The mother-of-two, who strips down for her new film Revolutionary Road, says her hot body is a result of Pilates DVDs, according to the website.

"I am pretty average," the actress, who is married to her Revolutionary director Sam Mendes, tells UK's Elle. "I have cellulite, I don't go to the gym because I don't have time but I do Pilates work out DVDs for 20 minutes or more everyday at home."

As for her diet, she says she eats sensibly and doesn't "stuff down chocolate biscuits," she tells the magazine in its February edition.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Smirnoff really rings in New Year

MARRIAGE Karina Smirnoff and Maksim Chmerkovskiy are looking to perfect their pas de deux, eonline.com reports.

The website says the Dancing With the Stars pros took the whole ringing in the New Year literally, getting engaged just before the calendar flipped to Jan. 1, a source close to the couple confirmed.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Pitt loves changing diapers

FAMILY Brad Pitt loves changing nappies, female-first.co.uk reports.

The star — who is raising six children with partner Angelina Jolie — insists he is very skilled at dealing with soiled diapers.

The website says Pitt — who currently has his hands full with six-month-old twins Knox Leon and Vivienne Marcheline — said, "I'm fairly good with a nappy and all that. You know the secret of a good nappy-change? You've got to do it quick.

"There's something about the air contact that makes them want to go again, you've got to be speedy. I must say, I'm pretty quick — but I've had a lot of practice."

The gossip website adds that Jolie was reportedly warned recently not to have another child.

The 33-year-old actress — whose other biological child with Brad is two-year-old daughter Shiloh — has allegedly been told it could damage her health if she falls pregnant again.

A source reportedly told the website that, "(Jolie's) previous pregnancies ended with emergency caesarean sections. She's been told that, at the least, she should not get pregnant for a year after her last delivery, and it would be safer if she did not get pregnant again, ever."

METRO NEWS SERVIECS

Perry and McCoy call it quits

RELATIONSHIP Singers Katy Perry and Travis McCoy have ended their relationship, people.com is reporting.

The I Kissed a Girl singer, 24, and the Gym Class Heroes frontman, 27, vacationed together in Mexico over the holidays, but they split shortly before the New Year, a source tells the magazine.

"It's a hardship, but she's regrouping," a source told Celebuzz, which first reported the split. McCoy took to his FriendsOrEnemies.com blog on Dec. 31, where he posted lyrics to hip-hop group Main Source's breakup song Looking at the Front Door.

The same day, Perry performed at the Gridlock New Year's Eve party on the Paramount lot. "She hung out with her friends all night. She was in a great mood," people.com reports a partygoer as saying. "Nothing seemed out of the ordinary."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Rutherford's marriage ends

DIVORCE Pregnant Gossip Girl actress Kelly Rutherford and her husband of two years, German entrepreneur Daniel Giersch, are calling it quits.

Rutherford, 40, who is three months pregnant, filed for divorce on Dec. 30, citing "irreconcilable differences," according to papers obtained by People.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

The Weather Network 20 YEARS
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Today Mainly sunny 7° / 3°
Tuesday Rain 90% 6° / 5°
Wednesday Rain 100% 9° / 3°

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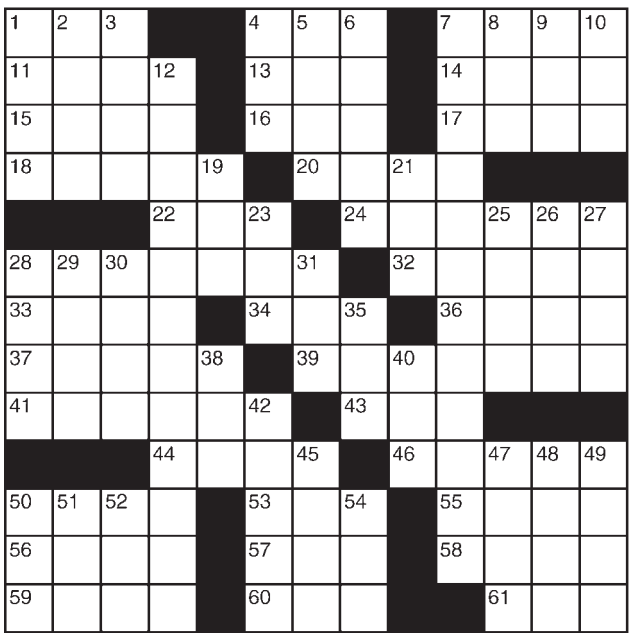
Take Five



Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

8		6		5	4			1
	7		2					6
	3		9				4	
6							2	
		2	5		7	8		
	4							3
	8				6		5	
9					2		3	
2			3	1		9		

Crossword across

1 "— gets too hungry ..."
4 Existed
7 Go sightseeing
11 Baby bovine
13 Frozen over
14 With competence
15 Approximately
16 Can metal
17 High-flying toy
18 Prepare to drive
20 Medicinal measurement
22 Ply oars
24 Online biz
28 Talk and talk and talk
32 Push hard
33 Wooden strip
34 Pooch
36 Divisible by two
37 Unfriendly
39 Novices on the golf course
41 High hit
43 X-ray descendant
44 San — Capistrano
46 Subsequently
50 Boyfriend
53 Gear tooth
55 Siamese
56 Badder than bad
57 Coloration
58 Towel designation
59 Change
60 Explosive letters
61 Wapiti

Crossword down

1 Glaswegian, e.g.
2 Tortoise's opponent
3 Otherwise
4 Humour
5 Alkali neutralizer
6 Church council
7 Refuse to answer
8 Kimono sash
9 Last (Abbr.)
10 "The Catcher in the —"
12 Summer holiday
19 Cauldron
21 "Mayday!"
23 Marry
25 Inlet
26 Exceeding
27 Clothing store department
28 Applaud
29 Head light?
30 On
31 Scepter
35 Wrigley product
38 Winter ailment
40 Monk's address
42 Luxury craft
45 It may be a proper subject
47 Quaker's pronoun
48 "My Name Is —"
49 Put in jeopardy
50 Ms. Sills, to pals
51 Peron or Gabor
52 Melody
54 Obtain

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

H	A	U	L	S	■	U	P	S	■	O	P	S		
U	N	T	I	L	■	N	U	T	■	L	I	T		
R	A	I	S	A	■	S	T	Y	L	I	Z	E		
■	■	L	A	N	C	E	T	■	O	O	Z	E		
F	B	I	■	G	O	A	■	N	A	S	A	L		
L	A	Z	E	■	A	L	O	O	F	■	■	■		
U	S	E	N	E	T	■	S	W	E	R	V	E		
■	■	■	A	L	I	B	I	■	R	E	E	K		
G	R	I	M	M	■	R	E	D	■	A	T	E		
R	A	V	E	■	C	E	R	E	A	L	■	■		
I	D	O	L	I	Z	E	■	E	V	I	C	T		
S	I	R	■	P	A	Z	■	D	O	Z	E	N		
T	O	Y	■	O	R	E	■	S	W	E	E	T		

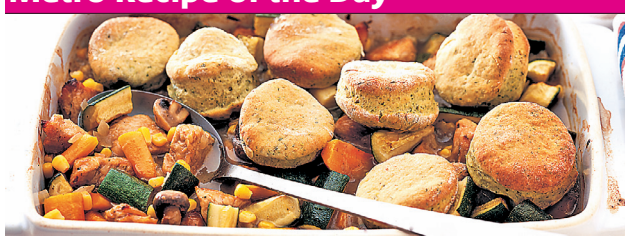
8	1	7	6	5	9	3	4	2
9	2	4	7	8	3	6	5	1
3	5	6	1	4	2	8	9	7
2	9	1	8	3	5	7	6	4
5	6	3	4	2	7	9	1	8
7	4	8	9	6	1	2	3	5
6	3	2	5	7	4	1	8	9
1	8	5	2	9	6	4	7	3
4	7	9	3	1	8	5	2	6

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:

Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min .....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day



Chicken cobbler

INGREDIENTS:

1 lb (500 g) chicken, diced
2 tbsp (25 ml) plain flour
1 1/2 tbsp (20 ml) olive oil
2 onions, finely chopped
2 cups (500 ml) dry alcoholic cider
1 bay leaf
4 carrots, peeled
1/4 cup (50 ml) button mushrooms, halved
3 zucchini, trimmed
2/3 cup (150 ml) frozen corn kernels

COBBLER TOPPING:

1 1/4 cups (175 g) self-raising flour
1 tbsp (15 ml) chopped fresh parsley
1 tbsp (15 ml) snipped fresh chives
1 tbsp (15 ml) chopped fresh oregano
1 oz (30 g) unsalted butter, chilled and diced
7 tbsp (100 ml) low-fat milk

METHOD:

1. Preheat oven to 400°F (200°C). Toss chicken in flour to coat. Heat 1 tbsp (15 ml) oil in frying pan. Add chicken and fry over a medium heat, stirring, about 3 minutes. Stir in remaining oil and onions, reduce heat and cook 5 minutes, until onions are golden.
2. Stir in cider and bay leaf, and boil. Quarter carrots lengthwise, then chop into 3/4-inch (2-cm) chunks and add to pan with mushrooms. Reduce heat. Simmer gently for 20 minutes.
3. Meanwhile, cut zucchini into quarters lengthwise, then cut across into chunks, about the size of the carrots. Mix with corn and set aside.
4. To make the cobbler topping, combine flour, herbs and a little seasoning in bowl. Using your fingertips, rub in butter until the mixture looks like fine crumbs, then stir in milk until ingredients come together to make a soft dough. Turn onto floured surface and press with floured fingers to 1/2 inch (1 cm) thick. Using a floured 2 1/2-inch (6-cm) round cookie cutter, cut out eight rounds, re-using trimmings.
5. Stir zucchini and corn into chicken mixture and season. Transfer to ovenproof dish and arrange "cobblers" on top. Cook uncovered, for 20 minutes until topping is golden. Serve hot.

SERVES 4

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Your friends want you to pretend to be happier. You'll come up with an idiot-proof idea. A glum departure turns out to be for the best.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Extreme childishness should be treated patiently. An insensitive bully will be despised. A blocked account has some intriguing consequences.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Don't hurt anyone's feelings with disconcerting actions. An indifferent man has recognition issues. Be helpful to someone who is still idealistic.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
A loyal friend sheds tears. Try to react to frantic activity with equanimity. You'll wait for a man to change his mind.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
A cynic puts a damper on things. A peer isn't allowed to make contact. A marriage is discussed by a deserter.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
A slothful manner can't be put right. Be cool when listening to a blabbing creature. Limiting a debate will make others uneasy.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Your clear thinking has dramatic results. Reveal the truth despite the chaos it causes. Be humble when your good deeds are revealed.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
You will frustrate an opponent. An important caller could change everything. Insensitive joking makes you speechless.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
A friend confesses about a scam. Set aside time for overdue accounts. A busybody's hypocrisy will be apparent.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
Your ability to treasure good times is still strong. Relief comes in the form of comical responses. A competitor is grateful for your honesty.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
A speedy solution will have a peculiar flaw. Your steadiness is valued in a crisis. You won't easily ignore a dieting problem.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Don't make any hasty decisions. A man's cautious behaviour will affect your plans. Don't be melodramatic if someone fools around.

This day in history

JAN. 5, 1896: An Austrian newspaper reports that Wilhelm Roentgen has discovered a type of radiation later known as X-rays.
JAN. 5, 1900: Irish leader John Edward Redmond calls for a revolt against British rule.
JAN. 5, 1914: The Ford Motor Company announces an eight-hour workday and a minimum wage of $5 for a day's labor.
JAN. 5, 1918: The Free Committee for a German Workers Peace, which would become the Nazi party, is founded.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

WORDY GURDY®

BY TRICKY RICKY KANE

Every answer is a rhyming pair of words (like FAT CAT and DOUBLE TROUBLE), and they will fit in the letter squares. The number after the definition tells you how many syllables in each word.

1. So-so Chicago NFL player (1)
2. Exchanges floor-washing tools (1)
3. Spiky-hair fad doll opinion survey (1)
4. Lourdes attraction billboard (1)
5. Hospital workers' handbags (2)
6. Centermost country violin (2)
7. Actress Locklear's peacock plumes (2)

ANSWERS
1. FAIR BEAR 2. SWAPS MOPS 3. TROLL POLL 4. SHRINE SIGN 5. NURSES PURSES 6. MIDDLE FIDDLE 7. HEATHERS FEATHERS

1-5-09

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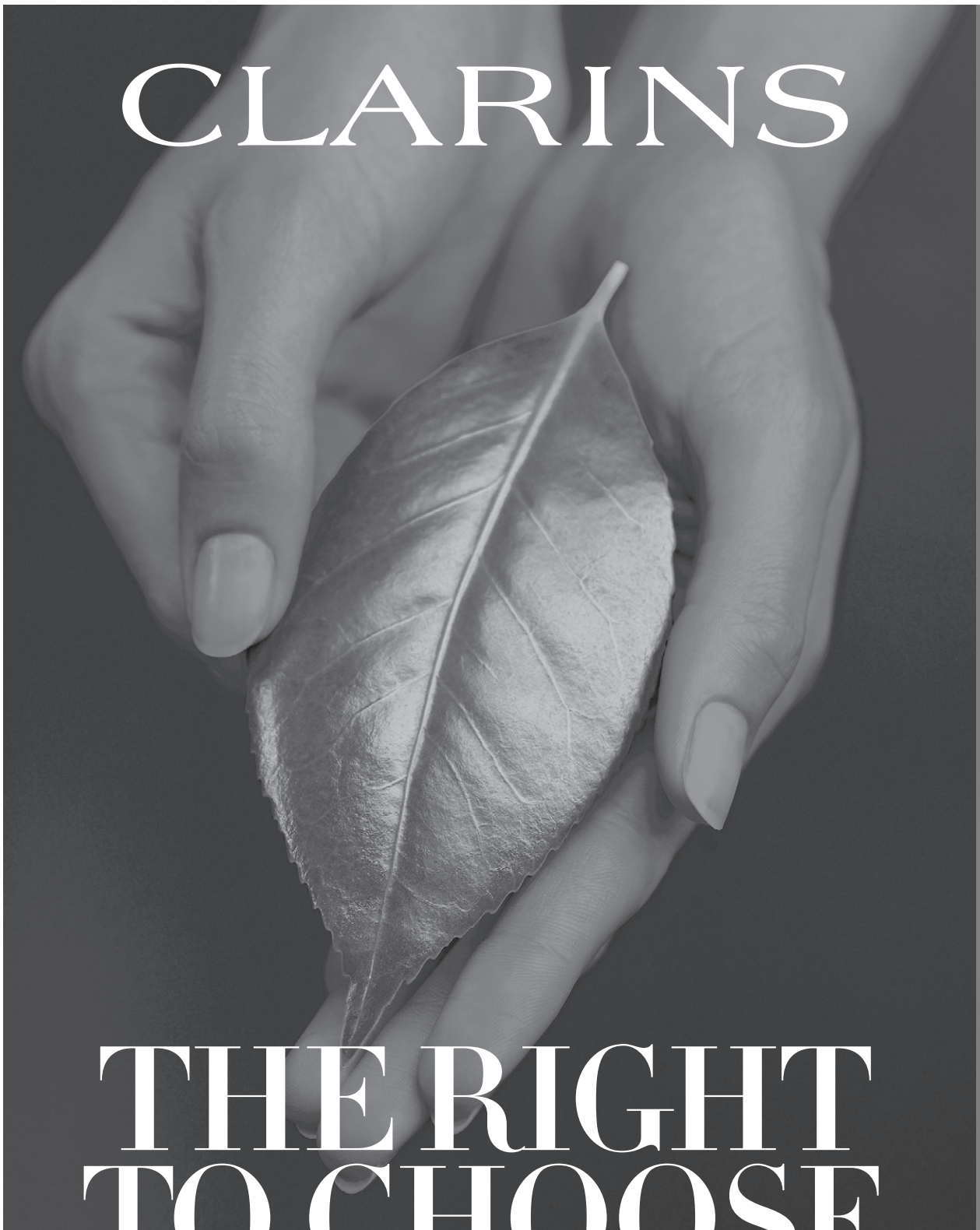
CLARINS



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Choose one of the 4 gifts shown with any purchase of
2 or more Clarins products, one of which is skin care.

Offer valid from January 8 to January 25, 2009. One gift per customer, while quantities last.

*Value based on Sears reg. price per mL/g.

Sears

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Normalizing

Instant Eye Make-Up Remover, 30 mL; Water Purify One-Step Cleanser, 50 mL;
Hydra-Matte Lotion, 15 mL; Pure and Radiant Mask, 15 mL.

Hydrating

Instant Eye Make-Up Remover, 30 mL; One-Step Facial Cleanser, 50 mL;
HydraQuench Cream, 15 mL; Beauty Flash Balm, 30 mL.

Regenerating

Gentle Eye Make-Up Remover Lotion, 30 mL; Water Comfort One-Step Cleanser,
50 mL; Extra-Firming Day Cream, 15 mL; Extra-Firming Facial Mask, 30 mL.

Super Restorative

Gentle Eye Make-Up Remover Lotion, 30 mL;
Water Comfort One-Step Cleanser, 50 mL;
Super Restorative Day Cream, 15 mL; Gentle Facial Peeling, 20 mL.

In addition, from January 10 to 23 you will also receive a trial size Moisture Rich Body Lotion